

Cable Committee Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2005

Call to order by Walter Bohlin @ 7:15pm

Members present: Steve Flanders, Matt Esenwine, Derek Geddes, Walter Bohlin, Jon Wallace, Brad McCauley

Access to Channel 6

Bohlin explained that he called this meeting to address a request by resident Brian McDonald to operate a TV show. Bohlin said the request was never discussed at the previous Cable Committee meeting and that Steve Flanders was supposed to contract Mr. McDonald but never did so. Flanders responded that he couldn't find McDonald's phone number.

McDonald was invited to speak and said that his phone number is published in the phone book, and that he resorted to calling Flanders instead of waiting any longer to be contacted himself. McDonald said Flanders told him the Channel 6 equipment was unavailable because there were problems with the equipment. McDonald said his initial request was made 4/21/05 and to date he had not heard anything back from the cable committee. McDonald said the Town Administrator and one selectman told him he would be contacted by the Cable Chairperson, but that he never was. McDonald said he wanted to make it clear that he has a legal right to access the cable channel, and that under Section 611 of the Federal Communication Act, NHRSA 53-C:4, and an FCC fact sheet regarding public access television, he cannot be censored by either the selectmen or the cable committee unless he violates federal or state law. McDonald said he thinks it is important that officials understand channel 6 is a public channel, not a selectmen channel, and not a cable committee channel.

Bohlin said that he had some issues with things that have been said by Steve Flanders. Bohlin said Flanders told Derek Geddes from the school that they could no longer use the cable equipment which forced the school to purchase their own. Bohlin said this is another example of taking cable access from town people. Bohlin said the committee had never voted to disallow access to cable equipment by school personnel and that Flanders did this on his own.

Bohlin said he got a call prior to this meeting from Heleen Kurk saying that she had Steve Flanders there and that he wanted to talk to Bohlin. Bohlin said that Flanders told him he did not have authority to call tonight's meeting and that it was being cancelled. Bohlin said that as co-chair he has every right to call meetings when necessary.

MOTION by Walter Bohlin

I move to allow Brian McDonald and any other town person to have full access to the cable station, to produce and air local programming, in accordance with rules setup by the F.C.C. and by federal law.

This includes use of equipment owned by the town. **Seconded by:** Brad McCauley

Bohlin: yes, McCauley: yes, Flanders: yes, Esenwine: yes, Geddes: yes, Wallace: yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Cable/BOS Issues

A discussion occurred regarding interaction between the BOS and Cable Committee. McCauley stated that the only problem he sees is friction between Selectman Methot and Walter Bohlin. Bohlin expressed concern regarding comments by Methot that Bohlin was "skirting the law" regarding this meeting even though the law had been complied with regarding calling and posting the meeting. Bohlin also said that only some people were being invited to meetings and that when he asked

Selectwoman Osborne to ensure that Geddes and Wallace were kept informed of meeting announcements, she responded in email with the following:

And my feelings these two men are adults, my email is on the website, and also you know my email, they also can email, me I don't bite.

Wallace said that he thinks the issue goes beyond just Methot and Bohlin. Wallace said he has not been notified of various meetings and cited the email by Selectwoman Osborne as evidence there is an effort to keep him out of the loop. Wallace said both he and Geddes have as much right to be notified of a pending meeting as much as anyone else on the committee. Wallace said that either everyone should be notified or nobody should be notified and not notifying some people is simply wrong. Wallace said the committee sent him a letter saying essentially to "show up at meetings or turn in your keys", but cited Osborne's letter as evidence that he's not informed of when meetings occur. Wallace said the regularly scheduled May 5th meeting was rescheduled for May 9th, but he was never informed of the change by any committee members. Wallace said Selectwoman Osborne was going to be out of town. Wallace asked why the meeting was rescheduled if he couldn't attend a regularly scheduled meeting? Wallace also said that Selectwoman Osborne is using email to discuss cable business which he believes is in violation of NHRSA 91-A. Wallace referenced an email dated 5/15/05 in which she makes a suggestion for assigning alternates to the board and then asks cable members and selectmen for their opinion on the matter.

MOTION by Brad McCauley

McCauley moved that the June 2, 2005 meeting agenda include election of officers and a discussion of what has happened to the \$4,000 bid. Seconded by Walter Bohlin. Passed unanimously on voice vote.

MOTION by Walter Bohlin to adjourn @ 8:05pm. Seconded by McCauley.